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April 9, 2002

TO: Ross J. Davidson, Jr.  
Administrator

FROM: William Murphy /s/ *William Murphy*  
Director

SUBJECT: Regional Irrigation Assessment for Davis Region

The Loss Adjustment Manual (FCIC 25010) directs the Regional Office to provide a regional assessment in order to identify areas and water districts where inadequate irrigation water supply is suspected.

**Arizona:**

Almost all of Arizona is experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions due to a 4<sup>th</sup> dry winter in a row. With the exception of irrigation districts that receive its water from the Colorado River, most districts will receive below normal levels of irrigation water supplies.

Most of the reservoirs in Arizona are at low historic water levels due to a 4<sup>th</sup> dry winter in a row. The San Carlos Irrigation & Drainage District (SCIDD), which is located in **Pinal County**, is again experiencing below normal levels of irrigation water supplies for the 2002 crop year. Over the past 20 years, the SCIDD has received, on average 2.5 acre ft/acre from the San Carlos Reservoir. However, due to an extended drought and snow pack levels at 25% of normal, estimates are that the SCIDD will only allocate up to 0.5 acre ft/acre. The insured crops grown in the SCIDD are barley, corn, cotton, els cotton, grain sorghum and wheat with cotton having the greatest amount of acreage grown. Alfalfa is also grown in the SCIDD but there is not a forage production program in Pinal County, Arizona.

**California:**

While the Northern Sierras have received close to average snowpack, the Central Sierras and Southern Sierra snow levels and water content levels are below normal with the statewide average being 90 percent. While storage in California's reservoirs are at historic average levels the streamflow forecast remain below average, ranging from 85 percent in the north to 65 percent in the southern San Joaquin Valley areas.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project (CVP) has forecasted that the agricultural land areas located north of the Delta will receive 100 percent of their contracted allotment. Land areas south of the Delta will receive 55 percent to 60 percent of their contracted allotment, which is close to the amount they would receive in a normal water year. The Friant Division of the CVP (which supplies water for the east side of the San Joaquin Valley) has projected that only 40 percent of historic water supply will be allocated this year with Class 1 water users receiving 75 percent of contracted allotment and Class 2 water users receiving 0 percent of their contracted allotment.

The State Water Projects (SWP), which supplies agricultural areas in the southern San Joaquin Valley, has forecast they will be able to deliver only 60 percent of contracted water supplies. It is expected that local irrigation districts located in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley will also experience below normal levels of irrigation water supplies.

California counties suspected of having a lack of irrigation water are: **Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kern, Stanislaus, Merced and Kings.** Insured crops in California that may be affected by the suspected lack of irrigation water include cotton, pima cotton, rice, dry beans, sugar beets, corn, safflower, grain sorghum, potatoes barley and wheat.

**Nevada:**

The Rye Patch Reservoir, which services **Pershing County** is only at 20% of capacity. Stream flows are 50%-70% of normal. Last year producers only received 1.35 acre/ft (approximately 50% of normal allotment) from the Rye Patch Reservoir and concerns have been raised that producer's allotments this year may be reduced from last year's allotment. Insured crops that may be affected by the suspected lack of irrigation water include forage production, forage seeding, barley and wheat.

**Utah:**

Concerns have been expressed for Utah as it enters its fourth year of drought. Reservoir storage across the state is only 61% of capacity and water flows are forecasted to be much below normal through the summer. Snowpack ranges from 70% - 80% of normal in the north and decreases to only 31% of normal for the St. George region in the south. March and April typically are the wettest months of the year but if precipitation for March and April is at normal or below normal levels, growers may be affected by a suspected lack of irrigation water for this upcoming year. **All counties in Utah** are suspected of having a lack of irrigation water. Insured crops that may be affected by the suspected lack of irrigation water include forage production, barley, oats, wheat, safflower and dry beans.

Please contact our office with questions or for further assistance.